(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Both India and China are agreed that bilateral trade holds substantial potential and should be encouraged.

(b) Bilateral trade has grown rapidly in the last four years. According to DGCIS data, it grew by 19.8% in 1999/2000 CUS$ 1,826 million), by 27.15% in 2000/2001 (US$2,321 million), by 27.3% in 2001/2002 (US$ 2,955 million) and by 43.4% in the first six months of 2002/2003 (US$ 2,328 million).

Statute of Rome

3644. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Statute of Rome to which India was not a party was ratified by sixty countries;

(b) whether on the 11th March, 2003, the International Criminal Court comprising of 18 judges came into existence at Hague to prosecute and punish perpetrators of barbaric crimes;

(c) whether India would now take advantage of this Court's functioning in the present terrorist-ridden scenario; and

(d) if so, what modalities are required to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Statute of Rome has been ratified, so far, by 89 countries.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d) No. India chose not to become a party to the International Criminal Court for some important reasons, one of which was that the Statutes of Court do not recognize 'terrorism' as a crime within the purview of the Court, despite out strenuous efforts during the negotiations to have it included.

Commitment with regard to Indus Water Treaty

3645. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: